Community Affairs File

Plan Park West Of Wabash River

Parks + Recreation, Vigo Co.

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A large outdoor recreational park and a smaller city "pocket" park west of the Wabash River are in the preliminary planning stages by Project West ,a division of PERC (Pleasing Entrances Reflect Concern).

Dorothy Drummond, PERC co-chairman, states that reports presented during a PERC chairmen's meeting Wednesday night indicated that county and area officials are responsible to the idea of a park west of the Wabash River in Vigo County.

PERC is an organization formed to improve the "look" of the city and county both prior to and after the Banks of the Wabash Festival.

On Tuesday evening an area-wide citizen's meeting at West Vigo High School brought Project West members and another 100 interested citizens together to discuss plans for recreational facilities in the West Terre Haute area.

Both Keith Ruble, Vigo County park superintendent, and Jerry Dooley, director of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District, noted that funds are available for outdoor recreational purposes.

Community members were urged to "firm up" what was needed and to submit a proposal to the Vigo County Park Board.

With that in mind, Project West is now in the process of drawing up a petition detailing park sites. The petition will be circulated to persons residing west of the Wabash River.

Mrs. Drummond also noted that other committees of PERC have announced their intentions and plans.

Background planting will be done in Fairbanks Park behind the bandstand and the old post office facade. The bandstand will also be refurbished in brick. Long range plans for the park are still being discussed.

The downtown area will be graced with hanging baskets of petunias on every street light post from 3rd to 14th streets. The baskets will go up shortly before the Banks of the Wabash Festival and plans have been made to make the use of flowers a continuing effort.

A pamphlet concerning noteworthy architecture in the Terre Haute area is being compiled and will be distributed during the festival. A walking tour will also be outlined on the brochure.

Spectator Court will be blacktopped before the festival and the city garden clubs will furnish planters and park benches for the area. Planters will also be placed at 5th Street and Wabash Avenue.